CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1351
15 September 1995

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LETTER DATED 14 SEPTEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, THE HONOURABLE P.J. KEATING MP, ISSUED ON 6 SEPTEMBER 1995, CONCERNING THE FIRST FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST

Attached is the text of a statement by the Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. P. J. Keating MP, issued on 6 September 1995, concerning the first French nuclear test.

I would be grateful if you would issue this text as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all member States and non-member participants in the work of the CD.

(Signed): Richard Starr
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
for Disarmament Matters

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STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

From the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

THE FIRST FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST

The Australian Government utterly condemns France's nuclear explosion at Mururoa.

By its actions the French Government expresses its contempt for the countries and people of the region, and for all those who hope and work for a nuclear free world.

Whatever the French Government had in mind by conducting this test, it has done nothing to enhance the honour of France, and has severely damaged its international reputation.

Australia will be protesting in the strongest possible terms to France, and pressing ahead vigorously with our comprehensive program of action aimed at convincing the French Government to desist from further tests.

I have asked the Minister for Pacific Island Affairs, Mr Bilney, to convey our protest directly to the French Government during his visit to Paris later this week as leader of the Australian Parliamentary delegation on nuclear tests.

As I have said, our protests will not end with the first test. Until the tests stop, we will continue to remind the French Government that with every test they conduct, the good name of France is diminished in this part of the world.

I note reports that President Chirac has suggested the number of tests at Mururoa may be fewer than originally announced. This apparent response to international protests will not diminish our opposition to each and every nuclear test in the Pacific. We do not want fewer tests: we want no tests.

Darwin
6 September 1995

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